

## **Lead-Safe Lynchburg Abstract**

The City of Lynchburg's (City) Department of Community Planning and Development (CP&D) will utilize Federal funds in the amount of \$2,139,781 awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to continue the Lead-Safe Lynchburg (LSL) Program. The project includes \$417,952 of in kind matching services from various private, governmental, and community-based organizations (CBOs) and will run from February 1, 2003 through July 31, 2005. In response to the \$336,817 budget reduction, the program sought to decrease spending across categories instead of eliminating entire aspects of the grant. As a result, these measures will affect some quantitative goals of the grant, but the quality will remain the same. The program intends to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning and to make the older housing in Lynchburg lead-safe through affordable, cost-effective methods, while continuing to pursue the three goals undertaken in the first grant: education, intervention, and sustainability. LSL will remediate lead-based paint hazards in 165 housing units throughout Lynchburg, concentrating on the area of highest risk – the central city. These funds have a secondary impact of general property improvement, especially in projects where new windows and siding have been found to be a cost-effective method of hazard control. In addition, multiple services will be available to residents including education programs, family case management, and economic opportunities. Although household education will be the primary focus, the program will actively pursue community education opportunities partnering with local and state entities. This effort to increase public awareness has long-term benefits to the City, as the least costly activity to pursue when the grant ends, and has the greatest potential to maintain lead-safe housing.

During a previous grant, LSL was created comprising staff from Lynchburg Neighborhood Development Foundation (LNDF), the Central Virginia Public Health Department (PHD), Lynchburg College (LC), and the City. The City will continue to administer grant funds and oversee the many components of implementation. With the addition of one new position, the highly qualified staff of LSL will continue to coordinate and manage all program components. Continued attention will be paid to increasing the interest and capacity of the private sector in lead hazard control activities to produce long-term strategies that result in safer housing and healthier children beyond the grant period. The previously mentioned activities will be carried out by LSL on the shoulders of the original grant. The procedures for intake, pre-abatement activities, remediation and follow-up are established and will continue with new funding.

This program will make several notable changes from the previous grant. The change with the potential for greatest impact is the City housing and employing a much larger share of the program, having sub-recipients perform less of the activities. Bringing the personnel into the City will facilitate greater interaction with other City programs receiving Federal funds such as CDBG and HOME. Also, the lead program will be working more actively with the City's existing housing inspection staff to promote lead-safe housing in all inspection activities. Finally, having the bulk of the lead program in the City will facilitate a long-term presence to carry on lead-safe housing activities long after Federal funds are exhausted for such a program.

LSL will provide resources for use throughout the areas of the City with housing built prior to 1978. However, the program focuses on the eight census tracts containing the oldest housing with the lowest income residents, recognizing this as the highest risk population. The

demographics of the LSL target area are looked at in detail in the rating factors. LSL has taken a strong community-oriented approach in the high-risk neighborhoods and works closely with several active community-based organizations currently engaged in lead poison prevention activities. This approach will continue and expand.

At least nine organizations and groups will participate in the implementation of this program, assuring the City's commitment to address a serious health, housing, and social threat as it appears in the older homes of Lynchburg. LNDF and LC will continue to be sub-recipients of grant funds, although their contracts have been reduced from the initial proposal. These sub-recipients will continue to offer the same services and offer them as in-kind match.

Housing data and methods of lead hazard control will be collected, analyzed, and housed at the City. Housing this database at the City allows for more flexibility to incorporate data gathered from CDBG and HOME programs during the implementation of §1012/1013 by City sub-recipients. It is anticipated these data will not only be sought after by residents, but also other organizations using Federal funds for housing to determine if inspection and/or prior remediation has taken place. Maintenance of these data will be performed by interns provided by Lynchburg College, overseen by staff from both LC and the City. LC was instrumental in the development of this lead-based paint hazard registry during the initial grant to the City, and continues to have good working relations and communications with City staff and LSL participant organizations. The grant application did propose to help implement §1012/1013 in jurisdictions outside the city, but due to budget reductions, this is the one element of the program which was eliminated entirely.

The largest percentage of funds in the LSL program goes to remediation in the targeted neighborhoods. However, encouraging local residents and community groups to partner with LSL may have a longer lasting benefit. LSL activities such as offering training to residents, involving neighborhood groups in certain aspects of the remediation process and offering mini-grants to CBOs help build capacity for neighborhoods to continue to be lead-safe without Federal funds. The program plans to utilize the services of local CBOs in increased grant activities, from referral to post-abatement clean up.

As described, the program will utilize procedures and methods from the first grant to implement the current grant. Services and goals will remain the same as the grant proposal, although due to budget cuts, the quantitative goals will be slightly reduced.